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CIA asked publisher not to print heroin-link book

Reuters News Service

NEW YORK — A book alleging that the CIA helps international heroin traffickers was released today — despite objections from the government agency which rarely breaks its silence.

The controversial manuscript by Alfred W. McCoy, a 27-year-old Yale graduate student in history, was made available to the CIA and, despite its challenges, went to press without a word being changed, according to the publishers, Harper and Row.

Entitled "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia," the book claims that much of the government and military in Southeast Asia are profitably involved in the production and transportation of narcotics.

McCoy says that they receive aid and support from the U.S. government and its agencies, including the CIA.

The U.S. government is involved in at least three ways, according to McCoy: ignor-

ing the activity of known heroin traffickers, knowingly allowing American aircraft and crews to be subverted for the transport of heroin and opium, and allying with groups engaged in drug traffic.

Before publication, the CIA approached Harper and Row asking to read the manuscript. It said it could show that some of the claims on the agency's involvement were false or distorted and none was based on "convincing evidence."

The publishers said they allowed the CIA to peruse the manuscript. "Although no specific factual errors were cited, some of Mr. McCoy's sources were ques-

tioned and others flatly contradicted," Harper and Row said.

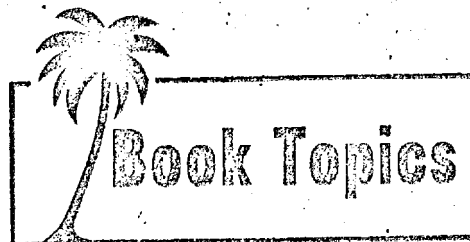
Brooks Taylor, vice president of Harper and Row, said the CIA merely objected to the book and in no way tried to censor publication.

"They tried to persuade us not to publish. On the basis

of what they told us, they certainly hoped we would not publish," he told Reuter.

In Washington, a CIA spokesman declined to comment on the publication. CIA Director Richard Helms told a newspaper editors' meeting last year "there is this arrant nonsense, for example, that the Central Intelligence Agency is involved in the world drug trade. We are not."

"We are heavily engaged in tracing the foreign route of the drug traffic for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. We hope we are helping with a solution. We know we are not contributing to the problem."



MORI/CDF